GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3544
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
RECLAIMING INDIAN LAND
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of land belonging to India in possession of its immediate neighbours;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to reclaim them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a)&(b):

Pakistan

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. Approximately 78,000 sq kms of the State`s territory is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan.

China

China illegally occupies approximately 38,000 sq kms of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 Sq kms of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

Nepal

The Government of Bihar has indicated that an area of over 5000 acres (approx. 20.23 sq kms) of land in Narsahi-Susta area adjoining the Gandak river in West Champaran District has been encroached upon by Nepalese nationals. There is a difference of perception of the boundary alignment between India and Nepal in this area due to the natural changing of the course of rivers over the last several decades.

Bangladesh

There are areas along the India-Bangladesh boundary possessed by nationals of the other country than to which the land belongs (adverse possessions). These areas lie in West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura.

(c):

Pakistan

Government are committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral discussions as envisaged under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

China

India and China are seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations.

Nepal

The matter has been discussed with the Government of Nepal on various occasions and is presently under consideration by the Joint Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee (JTC) constituted to identify and relocate missing boundary pillars and also resolve other ambiguities which may have developed in certain segments due to shifting of rivers etc. Last (Twenty-Third) Meeting of the JTC was held in December 2000. During the visit of Prime Minister G.P. Koirala of Nepal to India in July/August 2000, the two Prime

Ministers directed the JTC to complete its assigned tasks expeditiously, within the agreed time-frame.

Bangladesh

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People`s Republic of Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the land boundary between India and Bangladesh and related matters, provides for exchange of adverse possessions. These issues were discussed recently at the Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh held in New Delhi on December 13-14, 2000. Both sides agreed to set up Working Groups to deal with the completion of demarcation, and the exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse possession. The Government of India has proposed terms of reference of the Joint Boundary Working Groups; response from the Government of Bangladesh is awaited. The Government of India is committed to an early settlement of all boundary-related matters with Bangladesh through peaceful dialogue.